

NAME: Fort Sheridan Coastal Habitat Restoration Project

LOCATION: Lake Forest, Illinois

ACRES: 30 acres

NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR: Lake County Forest Preserve District

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This project will stabilize 1000 feet of an eroded but ecologically significant forested ravine, within the Janes Ravine, along the Lake Michigan coastline. The project is based on the successful stabilization and sediment reduction project in a nearby ravine. The steeply sloped Janes Ravine houses an exceedingly rare community of relict northern-range plant assemblages. Continued destabilization and erosion of the ravine, due to focused releases of urban runoff, is identified with heavy sediment loads entering Lake Michigan. This project will utilize best management practices, such as channel grade controls, rip-rap, or regrading and filling, to stabilize the ravine's side slopes and channel bottom, and to reduce the volume and velocity of urban runoff by redirecting it through a series of upland vegetated swales and ponds, then into Lake Michigan. This project will also involve the removal of non-native species and the establishment of native herbaceous groundcover.

EXPECTED BENEFITS:

The project will improve the ravine habitat by stabilizing areas of erosion, remove point source stormwater flow from ravines, and re-introduce native vegetation, which will result in improved water quality entering Lake Michigan. The restored ravine habitat will also benefit several listed plant species. Access to the Lake Michigan shoreline in northeastern Illinois is limited, but this project will increase public access to this important coastal resource. The Janes Ravine restoration will also help protect the McCormick Ravine Nature Preserve, which is directly connected to Janes Ravine and is recognized for its high quality forest and ravine community.

STATUS: Post-Construction Monitoring